



Child Passenger Safety Checklist: Birth to Toddler in Rear-facing Position (0-3 years)

The information below is a general reference. Read the manual for your safety seat for more information.

Check Point	What to look for	Other tips
Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seat options are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infant Carrier/Rear-facing only - Convertible Safety Seat in rear-facing position - All-in-one in rear-facing position - Child is in range of seat for weight and height <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Top of safety seat must extend at least one inch past the top of the child's head 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many seats start at 4 or 5 lbs. - Rear-facing only seats have upper weight limits of 22-35 lbs. - Convertible safety seats have rear-facing upper limits of 35-50 lbs. - Look on the safety seat for expiration date and weight, height, and age use information. - Register your safety seat.
Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rear-facing - Law- rear-facing until age two or meets minimum weight requirement to be forward facing 	Best Practice – rear facing as long as possible; child must fit in limits of safety seat.
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install in back seat of vehicle - If no back seat, can install in front seat as long as airbag is turned off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check vehicle owner's manual for additional information.
Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seat belt or LATCH - Use correct belt path - Seat does not move more than one inch when tested at belt path. Test by pulling and pushing seat from left to right and front to back. - Carry handle for rear-facing only is in correct position. - Seat is at correct angle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information for belt path is on the safety seat or base. - Information for carry handle position is on the infant carrier. - All safety seats have an angle indicator for rear-facing use.
Harnessing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shoulder straps are AT or BELOW the shoulders. - Crotch strap is close to body, not underneath child. - Harness is snug; you cannot pinch harness material into a fold at shoulder. - Retainer or chest clip is across the chest. Align retainer clip with armpits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place items to keep a child warm over top of the snug harness. This includes puffy jackets, bulky sweaters, and blankets.

Where to find help

- www.safetyseatva.org to find a Safety Seat Check Station for installation education.
- <https://www.nhtsa.gov/search-safety-issues#recall> for vehicle or safety recalls
- 1-800-732-8333 or ivp@vdh.virginia.gov with general questions
- 1-800-755-0912 for the National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Health Care Needs.



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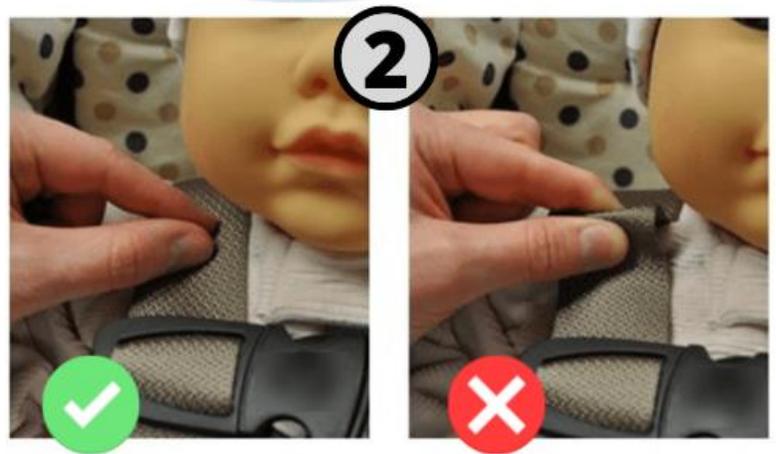
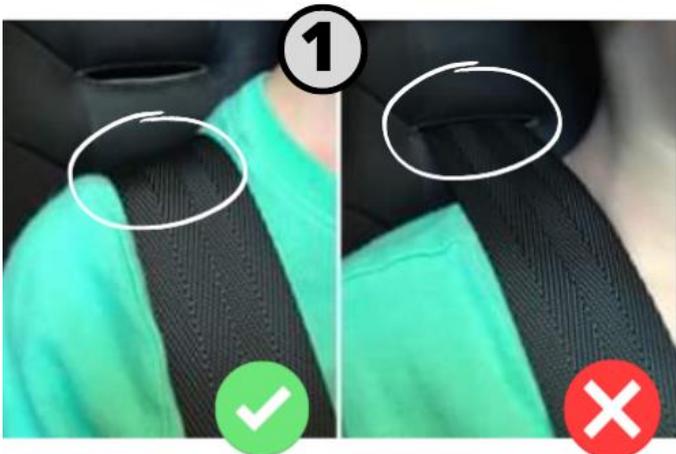


Best practices for injury prevention:

Rear-facing safety seats protect a child from injury in a crash by supporting their head, neck, and spine. The best practice is to use a rear-facing safety seat until the child outgrows the seat. They can outgrow the seat by height or weight. Convertible safety seats or all-in-one safety seats have upper weight limits of 35 to 50 pounds and a larger shell. This allows the child to remain rear facing longer than using an infant carrier or a rear-facing only safety seat. Be sure to set a good example by making sure all passengers buckle up for every trip, every time.

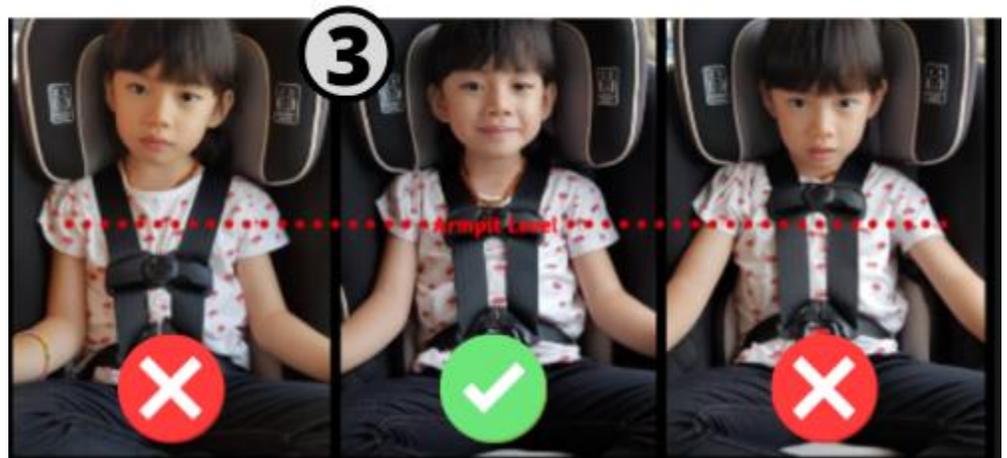
Installation Tips:

The safety seat instruction manual and labels on the seat (see example to right) provide information for proper use of the safety seat. Information includes seat positioning directions, expiration date, belt path, and height and weight limits.



Harnessing Tips:

The shoulder straps are positioned AT or BELOW the shoulders (1). The harness material is not twisted (1, 2 & 3). The harness is snug and cannot be pinched into a fold at the shoulders (2). The retainer or chest clip is at armpit level (3).



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